

# OUT

2 North American Jewish  on the Israeli  
Occupation of the Palestinian Territories

Research. Witness. Analysis.

Jan-Aug '07  
1st Edition



Welcome to the first edition of OUT. We are 2 white, North American, able bodied, 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Holocaust survivors, feminist, Queer Ashkenazi Jewish Women from upper-middle class Canada and the US of A. We met in Israel/Palestine where we traveled independently to challenge ourselves to witness Palestinian narratives; to seek a deeper understanding of the conflict, to learn and to unlearn. To disrupt the Jewishcentric narrative we grew up with. We both survived Jewish day school and zionist summer camps and somehow ended up in anti oppression work and organizing. It was likely in part due to our Jewish education and upbringing that we learned to think critically and to question everything! Except for Israel of course. Through our community activism and quest for social justice + tikun olam we were forced to take responsibility and engage in some serious self-reflection.

Growing up we were taught to feel at home in the idea of Israel. After all it was our homeland. Our religion was intimately intertwined with a state. And it made sense. What did not make sense was why there were a whole bunch of Arabs that were constantly trying to kill us. And where was the green line in our maps at school? It is the holes and fabrications in our education that produce generations of misinformed youth. We feel lied to by our Jewish educators and elders. Cheated. We had the privilege of delving into the rich history and culture of our people. However there is a loss for the Jewish people and our humanity as we ignore others histories and idealize a Jewish homeland while systematically oppressing another people on the pretext of security.

So now we are pumped to create spaces in the Jewish community for more diverse voices, reflection & growth, and accountability & action. We are Jews who love Judaism And we oppose the Israeli Occupation. Our Judaism is about resistance to all oppressions and drawing on its radical histories in order to be allies for others struggles.



this zine is us coming out as anti-occupation Jews. It's about speaking out. About how we need to physically and emotionally get out of the occupied territories and support Palestinian self-determination.

Maybe it's time to talk about privilege. We have a lot of it (see long list of identity politics above). As N. American Women In the West Bank, we had the privilege to occupy both male and female segregated spaces, often working side-by-side with Palestinian men where Palestinian women could not. This was difficult to swallow. Our privilege of movement became clear immediately as we were able to move relatively freely between Israel Proper and Occupied West Bank [it is nearly impossible to enter Gaza, which is why we couldn't write about it!] At checkpoints soldiers would look at our passports, see the names Aviva & Ilana and respond with a shocked look as if thinking: 'what are two Jewish girls doing in a bus full of Arabs?'

But seriously. Soldiers would be forced to switch to rubber bullets [still lethal] instead of live ammo at non violent demonstrations the moment they saw our white bodies. We could enter Jerusalem without a permit and without getting off the bus for the metal detector. It was impossible to ignore the occupation. Our privilege would slap us in the face when we maneuvered relatively easily through two distinct and separate worlds while our Israeli and Palestinian friends could never gather in the same place. Sometimes we would be asked to use our freedom of movement and greater access to resources for the benefit of the resistance movement.

Our privilege was thick. We were in constant critical analysis of the politics of solidarity work, making it difficult for us to make any move. In the end we understood that while it was important for us to be there to witness and to listen, our place is at home to help build a new justice movement in our own communities in order to effectively contribute to change in Israel/Palestine.

As N American Jews we acknowledge the ways in which our communities support the occupation with silence, \$, ideology & immigration. Without the support of the international Jewish community, the occupation would not be possible.

We have the power 2 make change.

We each spent 5 - 7 months in Israel/Palestine. We started the zine while in the depths of witnessing daily life under occupation and finished it in the comforts of home. We feel very lucky to have gone on this journey and even more lucky to have the choice to leave. We hope this zine will be used as a tool to share knowledge, create dialogue and inspire people to resist in creative ways. Inshallah. B'ezrat HaShem.

#### CHECK IT!

\*We recognize Jerusalem at the heart of the conflict, but it's not a focus here.

\*The complexities of this dialogue cannot be contained within 35 pages. We speak from current research, our experiences and analysis, maybe skimming the surface.

Consider this Occupation 101.

\*This is the 1st edition of OUT zine. We are not experts and are open to being challenged. Really! [outzine@gmail.com](mailto:outzine@gmail.com) and [www.outzine.blogspot.com](http://www.outzine.blogspot.com)

And here's the part where we thank everyone in our lives who supported and challenged us throughout this process. Especially the amazing radical jewish ladies who contributed to this zine and our sanity. Each story in this zine is either a personal account from friends or our own experience. Thank you to our Palestinian and Israeli friends who shared their stories with us, for your hospitality and all the humus we enjoyed together.



In solidarity,

Ilana & Aviva

[outzine@gmail.com](mailto:outzine@gmail.com)

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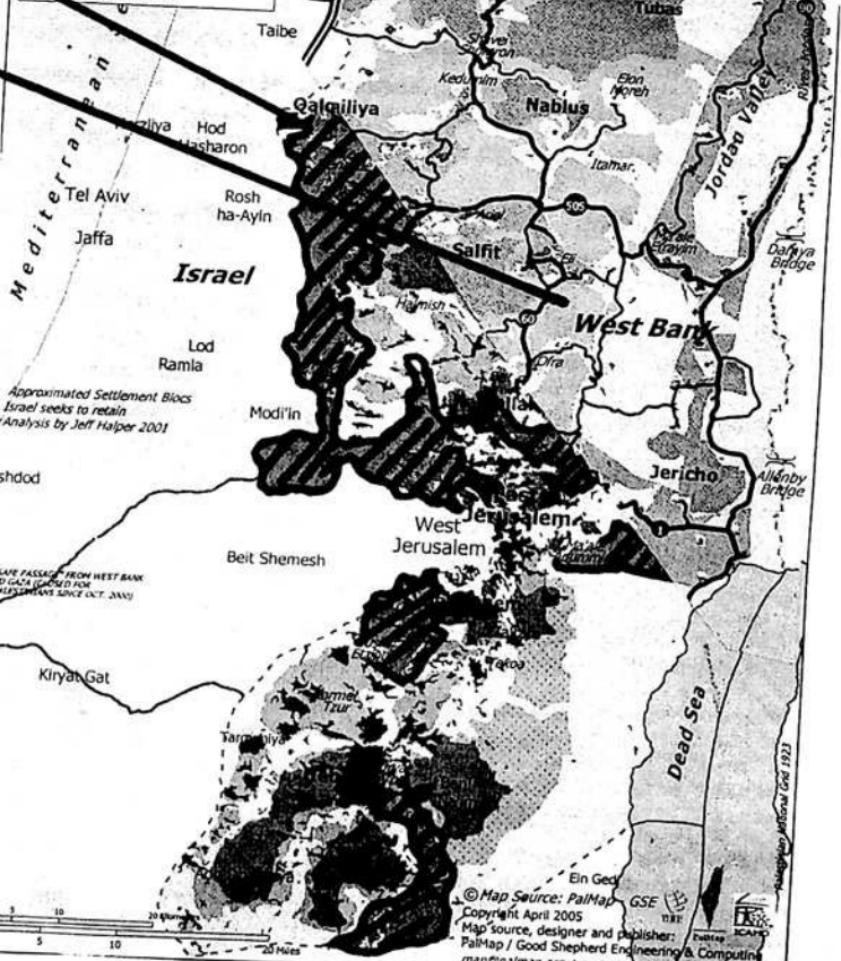
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**MAP 5 : DEFINING THE PALESTINIAN BANTUSTAN  
MATRIX ELEMENT 3 - ISRAEL'S SETTLEMENT BLOCS**  
AUTHOR: MICHAEL YOUNAN

- Palestinian Built-Up Areas
- ABC Zones
- Area A (Full Palestinian Control)
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Check out more great maps @ [icahd.org](http://icahd.org)

top map = bypass roads

bottom map = settlement blocs

**We are not historians!** But we tried to compile some sort of radical combined history *anyway* (a collection of Jewish, Israeli and Palestinian narratives) because the conflict is rooted in history. We think it's important for Jews to learn Palestinian narratives and for everyone to get a grip on how complex this is. It developed into a kind of tug of war and turned into hrs and hrs of discussion, disagreement and stress. In the end, we decided not to print the history in this edition of OUT.

-But-

go to [www.outzine.blogspot.com](http://www.outzine.blogspot.com) where we posted where we're at so far.

The idea is for YOU to check it out, leave comments/additions and feedback of any kind, which we will later compile into a history section for edition 2 of OUT. Of course we will never reach an un-biased history that everyone can agree on. But we can certainly try.

'cause guess what? It turns out **History is not objective.**

It's hard to challenge our biases & we could use your collaboration.

OH! And one more thing! **Collaboration 'aint easy.**

→ This zine happened because we were able to talk to each other in the 1st place. We have similar identities & backgrounds — yet our politics do not fit neatly together. We believe our cooperation on this zine indicates possibilities for coalition work...

-a peek into the process-

  
**Ilana:** hmmmm- in the intro piece I want to include something about how we are privileged in that we don't experience physical/cultural repression for being Jews today and therefore don't have the need to lean on the benefits of the existence of a Jewish State.

**Aviva:** Whoa. Ilana. That sounds pretty zionist to me- which makes me uncomfortable. I don't want to justify the need for a Jewish nation-state, which I don't believe is essential for Jewish safety and survival. It just seems very contradictory to the rest of the project. I'm not interested in painting a picture of 'israel as savior'....its like criticizing the state and then hanging onto it for a safety net. Just in case. It's like any change we want to see in the world, we have to be willing to give up power and privilege and often our concepts of safety - if we really want to see radical change. I think its important to honour Jewish history... but not like this.



I: It's not justifying it, it's simply recognizing it along with the history. Which is what we need to do with our privileges first thing. I think we are privileged in the sense that we are coming from a space of not ever having to rely on a Jewish government for safety- so it is a little easier to criticize. (heh- even though Israel proper is not really that safe for Jews anyway). What i'm trying to say is that- it is just good to be aware of that extra privileged lens we have AND the reality of the privileges that come with having state powers. yeah, we as Jews become impure with an ethnic state and all that power. But it also helped/helps Jews at the same time.



A: I recognize that a Jewish state privileges Jewish people - but at a price. I don't believe a state gov. can provide safety and security for anyone - even those in power b/c their privilege is based on others repression. And I do think we are repressed as Jews today by our own communities. Anti-occupation Jews like us are silenced and ostracized for thinking critically and working for justice.

\* \* \*

O! It got hard. We stuck it out because despite the stresses of collaborating; **we are stronger together**. We have discovered the importance of challenging & being challenged, listening respectfully to one another, and then somehow still manage to laugh together at the end of the day. Coming from queer community that challenges normative ways of thinking, we poses a queer consciousness. We see everything as more complicated.

**It is no coincidence that we met so many radical queer jewish women in israel and the occupied palestinian territories. Check it:**

"When we come out to ourselves and the rest of the world as queer we have figured out that the messages that society has taught us about gender all our lives have been lies. Then when we come out as anti-zionist jews and we have to go through a similar process. A queer person has already done half that work. We realize once again that what society tells us can be totally wrong- this doesn't just apply to sexuality"

from Young Jewish & Left, a radical Jewish documentary  
[www.youngjewishandleft.org](http://www.youngjewishandleft.org)

## Occupation. What?

1967→ the 6 Day War / an-Naksah (The Setback)

THE OUTCOME: Israel occupies and gains control over Jordan's West Bank and East Jerusalem, Syria's Golan Heights, and Egypt's Sinai Desert and Gaza Strip- all land seized as a result of the war of 1948/Nakba (Catastrophe) /War of Independence. As part of their war prize, Israel also won itself about 1 million Palestinian inhabitants.

During the British Mandate?

No.

or the Ottoman Empire?

No.

or Mamluk rule? the Crusader rule? Fatimid rule? No.No.No



Now what? Does Israel annex the Occupied Territories and grant citizenship to 3.8 mill Palestinian inhabitants, creating a de facto bi-national state of 5.4 mill Jews and 5.2 mill Palestinians and Israeli Arabs (not counting the refugees), an option that would end the Zionist dream of a Jewish Democratic State. Or continue an Occupation which inevitably creates a system of outright apartheid. Yikes. Or does Israel completely leave the Territories, and the people to their own sovereignty?



so it's not just these Jewish fundamentalists that the Israeli government wants to accommodate. There are very rich resources (like major water aquifers that provide Israel with water and fertile soil. Israel controls 80% of W. Bank water resources) and geographical spaces (like the Jordan valley being a buffer between Israel and Jordan) that keeps the israeli gov. interested in this land. They also want to control the Palestinian fundamentalists who threaten Jewish lives (& state).

drawings stolen from Joe Sacco's Palestine

In maintaining an image of a democratic country trying to defend its citizens from terror/Palestinian resistance, Israel uses seemingly innocent and even considerate policies and procedure to hide its control and repression.

The control mechanisms of the Occupation thru military force, bureaucracy, and 'facts on the ground' are varied and diverse; visible and invisible; and operate in interlocking levels that dominate and immobilize.

To all of this must be added, the debilitating psychological costs of life...

under occupation.

.....& carrying out occupation

loss of life, imprisonment, **torture**, harassment, humiliation, anger and frustration... **Traumas** suffered by tens of thousands of Palestinians (especially children) who witness their homes being demolished or see their loved ones beaten or killed. **suffering** from inadequate housing or psychological support- which strongly affects relationships, work, community, and opportunities to actualize their life potentials. They are enveloped in a culture of fear.

Children are raised to carry guns. These are wounds that will take generations to heal.

taking of life, imprisoning, **torturing**, harassing, humiliating and being humiliated, anger and frustration... **Traumas** suffered by tens of thousands of Israelis (especially 18-21 yr olds with mandatory army service) actively executing home demolitions, separating or killing others' loved ones, and **suffering** from inadequate psychological support upon return- which strongly affects relationships, work, community, and opportunities to actualize their life potentials. They are enveloped in a culture of fear.

Children are raised to carry guns. These are wounds that will take generations to heal.

WHO BENEFITS? Caterpillar BOEING

United Technologies General Electric

Disclaimer, I came here to love you  
I'm trying so hard to love you

Wrap my arms around your roots  
Cause I thought that was the only strength and support

I could truly hold on to.  
But your roots are undermined

Tarnished with the chemicals they've been sprayed  
It's got your branches sagging to a tire

I just can't bring myself to move to.  
With each step I take another branch breaks

Off this sacred holy tree I believed would support me.

Provide all the nourishment I need  
To reveal all the answers,

We've been too blind to see  
Those trees have been uprooted

Re-planted beside our synagogues for aesthetic beauty

Forget holy, when these trees have been brought by an army

Fondly/  
From an olive grove which provided  
Life, money, and dignity for centuries

To that Palestinian family

How can I reach to those branches for support?  
Look to those re-planted roots for my identity?

Barricade these roots which have been reclaimed

All in the name of Jewish sanctity?

The beauty I'm still trying so hard to see  
Has been cast away into the shadows of security

Ever since our spirituality has become overpowered

By a sense of idolatry this past century

The golden calf is back in the form of a state

A far gone history engraved in hol/ text

Providing all too many with the only legitimacy they choose to see

Ancient text dictates a deed to land

They refuse to see its taken priority over our own forgotten humanity

Dispensed tribes over centuries now return to be free

Only to enslave others with the same fate and hostility

We purgatives have already seen.

I come with what I thought was neutrality

In search of reclaiming and regaining a sense of pride

In the roots of my identity

But if that means returning to a land where we must uphold others dignity

In order to regain our right to freedom through history

I say move on

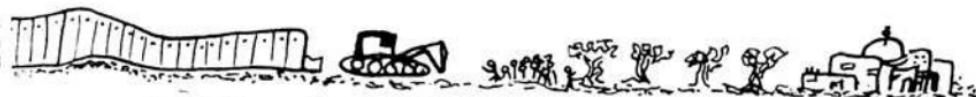
Re-order your priorities

And plant some new seeds!

Janiela

## Occupation is visible

Residents of Izbat at-Tabib (pre-48 village, Qalqiliya West Bank) are currently experiencing daily **incursions** by the Israeli army... On April 13<sup>th</sup> '07, after 8pm, the army entered the village, imposed a **curfew** and established **checkpoints**, preventing anyone from entering or exiting. 17 houses, nearly half of the houses in the village were **raided** and **forced outside**. In many homes, the army **damaged** the contents. 25 men and 15 boys, some as young as 4 or 5 years old, were **forced to line up** with hands behind their backs for 1-2 hours facing a wall off the main road of the village. The reason the army gave for the incursion was a complaint by a Jewish **settler** that stones were thrown onto the **main road** (for both settlers and Palestinians). The men and boys were threatened with possible **imprisonment** and told the village would be punished for any rock throwing, regardless of who was responsible.



... and then *invisible*

Today there are 21 **demolition orders** in Izbat at-Tabib, for such structures as a 2 meter border of a garden, homes, a school and health clinic. The demolition orders are in **Hebrew**, in need of translation. Some are over 20 years old, leaving the residents of Izbat at-Tabib in constant **threat** that their biggest investment could be destroyed at any moment. The clinic/school has been under construction for years, unfinished as a constant reminder that despite the communities' deep roots, every movement is controlled by an outside force. Israel has stated plans of building a **settler road** thru several homes in the village. The **courts** are suggesting **population transfer** to neighboring village Azzun. All to accommodate Jewish settlers living on their land. The community is organizing to resist.

IWPS report  
by Aviva



Map key

- Full Palestinian control
- Palestinian civil/admin. sovereignty
- Full Israeli control

Area A - Palestinian control  
Area B - Israeli / Palestinian  
Area C - Israeli control

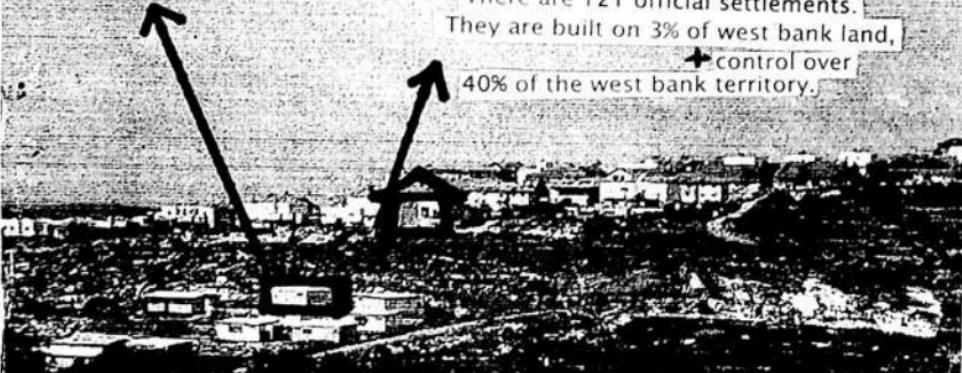
\*israel as the occupying force  
can at any time  
take control over any area

**Settlements:** ILLEGAL [international law] areas inhabited by Israeli Jews in territory that came under Israel's control as a result of the 1967 Six Day War. Israeli policies toward settlements have ranged from active promotion, military & financial support to removal by force.

**OUTPOSTS:** illegal (by international AND Israeli law) mobile homes/caravans erected as a land grab by settlers in order to expand the settlement bloc or start a new settlement.  
[often they are retroactively recognized with gov. security and no demolition orders]

There are 121 official settlements.  
They are built on 3% of west bank land,

+ control over  
40% of the west bank territory.



Under article 49 of the 4th Geneva Convention Israel is prohibited from establishing settlements.  
"The Occupying Power shall not transfer parts of its own civilian population into territories it occupies"

There are 418,300 Jewish settlers in the West Bank

Israel strategically maintains control over vital natural resources and essential spaces for movement and state continuity thru settlement placement.

Israeli tax payers pay \$556 mill/year for the settlements

Ariel Settlement - placed on a H2O aquifer,  
one of Israel's main water sources

- mostly economic settlers = heavily subsidized housing, living expenses, bus fare

often low income, new immigrants

Ma'ale Adumim - bisects the west bank from Jerusalem  
40% of the west bank's economy is in Jerusalem, commercial life, and industry

Hebron/al-Khalil - 400 ideological settlers.  
2,000 Israeli soldiers guarding them

to the Jordan Valley  
revolving around tourism

- ideological settlers = use mainly religious and nationalistic arguments to justify settlement existence & their own presence in the occupied territories.

WARNING: may get violent

Abu Jaber is a 60 year old farmer living in Beit Ommar, a village S. of Bethlehem. He farms his olive groves + grapes below the Jewish settlement of Bat Ayon. Over the last 5 yrs he has fought in court for rights to his land & safety, persisting regardless of settler violence. His plow was blown up, settlers let sheep loose on his crops, dumped raw sewage in the natural water source, + rolled boulders down the hill to plug it. Abu Jaber was in a neck brace for 3 weeks after being hit over the head with a rifle by a settler. Today he continues to farm his land but no longer feels safe working alone, seeking the company of Palestinian + International activists each time he visits his fields. -PSP report by Ilana

These are Settler roads. they are either completely prohibited to

Palestinians [ ] partially prohibited [.....] or have policies of restricted use [ ]

Like you need a special permit to drive on them as Palestinian.

Palestinians have GREEN license plates & Jewish settlers/israeli=Yellow ones.

And you can't cross them-they might be fenced in-or heavily guarded

So palestinians must go AROUND them, find the few tunnels built to bypass the bypass roads or get stopped by checkpoints where Palestinian and settler roads intersect.

During Oslo Israel began building a massive system of 480 km of Israel-only "by-pass" roads, at a cost of \$3 billion. The project continues today, linking the settlements to Israel proper while challenging Palestinian mobility.

This infrastructure further ghettoizes Palestinian communities.



← Um Salamuna, Feb '09

clustered and controlled by another large group of soldiers. Towering over them was a huge bulldozer, systematically ripping through an olive grove. 2 other bulldozers worked closely behind. A state of desperation clogged the air.

Um Salamuna is a Palestinian village south of Bethlehem. The village and the agricultural lands stand in the way of the wall's planned path, which will take over 700 dunams of land (~170 acres). Lawyers, community organizers, etc have been working relentlessly to change the path of the wall in order to avoid the destruction of the olive trees. 2 days ago, soldiers and engineers arrived. The people resisted, explaining they had no right to be there while the case was still in court. It was then that they were informed that they had lost the case. The court representative phoned half a day later with the news.

We rushed to the site, slightly out of view of the soldiers. We were then among the people- yelling, screaming, all being pushed back away from the bulldozers. I could see the bulldozers uprooting trees like they were nothing. Twigs. I could not believe how real it was. Before I could really ground myself in the situation, I realized that the Palestinians had been violently forced into another part of the olive grove while we were left in place. The soldiers did not have orders in how to deal with internationals, so they just didn't. But we were only five. Five people against three moving Caterpillar bulldozers can do nothing. So we stood there. I had a camera, so I started documenting what was happening. And then- I internalized it. The trees the Palestinians were guarding were gone. Mutilated, they were left smattered amidst the bulldozers' path. The olive grove was being fully destroyed right in front of me. All around me- the yelling of the soldiers to leave; the cries of protest and anguish from the Palestinians; the bulldozers grinding. Trees moving. I could not handle it. I left the soldiers and walked down the side of the grove. I found a place to take pictures of the bulldozers destroying trees in front of the Efrata settlements and outposts only a little ways away. I was alone and something came over me to start singing the Shema. "Shema Israel, Adoni Eloheinu, Adoni Echad." Listen Israel, Adoni our God, Adoni is one. It is the highest Jewish prayer. Listen god! Listen Israel! Listen Jews! What is going on! I was shaking.

-Ilana

[www.palestinesolidarityproject.org](http://www.palestinesolidarityproject.org)

since the beginning of the Intifada  
until feb 2006, over 2 million  
trees have been destroyed

If the Palestinians' olive trees are uprooted carefully, they are stolen and sold for thousands of dollars to decorate Jewish neighborhoods. This tree sits in Ma'ale Adumim settlement outside of Jerusalem.



photo → [www.activestills.org](http://www.activestills.org)

Companies like: Abir Textile Industries o Achdut Factory for  
Tehina, Halva & Sweets o Adumim Chemicals Ltd. (food additives & preservatives) o Barkan Wine Cellars Ltd.  
Barkan Carpets Ltd. o Bergel & Bergel Ltd. o Boston Scientific  
Burski Lipski Plastic Industries Ltd. o Soda Club Ltd. o Shamir Food Industries Ltd. Home to companies \*

There are now 7 industrial zones  
(12 planned in total)

situated inside several settlement blocs  
in the west bank.

Palestinians & Asian migrant workers are  
used for cheap labor.

Thousands of Palestinians are given entry permits  
Instead of work permits

*Making them illegal workers.*

[http://www.islam-shia.org/  
boycott\\_israel/settlement\\_products.htm](http://www.islam-shia.org/boycott_israel/settlement_products.htm)

15

Approaching  
The Hawara checkpoint

Children glance my way.  
suspicious eyes

each body  
moving through turn stiles  
slowly controlled  
humiliated

routinely removing belts  
shoes  
in silence

I see a man  
baby in his arms  
Leaving the line behind

Head    hold    high

Determined to resist

Within seconds  
11 soldiers surround him  
baby faces  
with power  
neck grabbed  
head pulled

Today  
he is sick  
Of occupying  
his time  
His mind  
With this bull shit

11 guns pointed at him  
baby in his arms crying

womyn of machsom watch  
begin documenting  
shouting  
in hebrew

'we are watching'

soldiers surround the man  
his baby  
blocking our view  
cover the camera lens

'let us do our job'  
they said

1.5 hours passed  
11 soldiers  
1 man standing tall  
baby crying

walking toward us  
exhausted  
we open our arms  
to his baby, his bags

open our ears

If they want peace,  
they should behave peacefully  
he said.

head shaking in disgust  
of this reality  
'they have my id now.  
Who knows what will be  
tomorrow'

I cried for the man and his baby

I cried for all the children  
who only know a life of occupation

I cried out of shame for my people  
who have learned

nothing

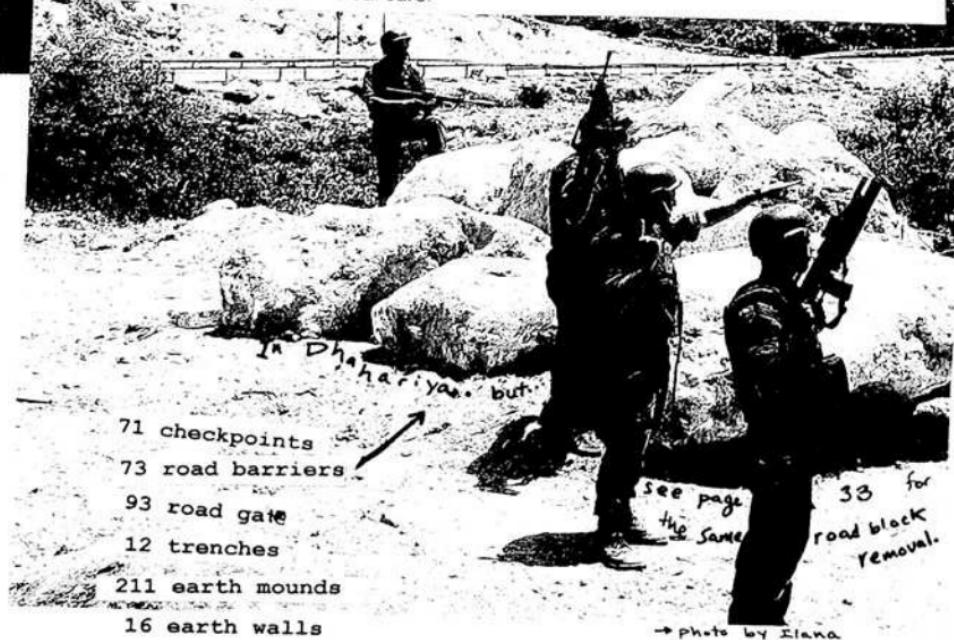
(Pause)

when learning about injustice  
we must remember  
to take care  
of ourselves & each other  
otherwise  
change wont be as sweet.  
or even possible.

**Checkpoint / Closures:** Road blocks or other barriers imposed by the Israeli army or border police permanently or temporarily throughout the west bank to control/restrict the movement of Palestinians between villages and towns. Checkpoints cause immense travel delays and restrictions: as a result often agricultural products are spoiled due to delays lasting up to several days. They also seriously disrupt daily life, preventing Palestinians from reaching schools and universities, working places, places of worship, and hospitals.

Closures can be of unspecified duration, may be total (in which all entry permits are cancelled) or partial and are often imposed without explanation. Closures are often used during 'high security' times like Jewish Holidays. Whole cities or specific areas can be closed off OR a population group is targeted (ex. men under 35)

Deaths occur when individuals, incl. women in labor, and/or ambulances are prevented from reaching hospitals/medical care.



**= 549 barriers to movement**

[April 2007, updated monthly by the UN]

[www.passia.org](http://www.passia.org)

On March 12, 2007 mia, an Israeli-born Vancouver-raised activist accompanied her friend Nejah on her daily route to work through the wall. This is her account.

Nejah lives in Deheishe Refugee camp with her 4 children & husband. She is the only wage earner of the family.

Once Deheishe was only 15 minutes away from Jerusalem by car.

Now this place is walled out and in and folded upon itself... Cut by

checkpoints, and closed military zones, and 35 minutes away from

Jerusalem for Palestinians who have permits allowing entry into West Jerusalem.

Nejah works in an Israeli care facility for the elderly in East Jerusalem. She has worked there for more than 10 years. Until 2003

Nejah was able to travel to work, relatively easily. Today, 6 days a

week, Nejah is rendered illegal as she crosses an illegal wall that cuts and maims the landscape, and any possibility for a viable Palestinian state... if that were to be the answer... This wall cuts farmers off from their agricultural lands; this wall dissects families and communities; this wall strips economic sovereignty... Nejah makes this torturous daily trip because she is prohibited from

obtaining an Israeli work permit. She was imprisoned when she was 17 for her participation in the Palestinian Communist movement, and so she will never be able to acquire a permit.

Her experience is common, widespread, convenient... for the Israeli employers who want cheap illegal labour.

Nejah suffers from high blood pressure. Her legs swell from the journey.

Ech ha derech? (How is the way) I ask... We find our way to understanding in our broken Hebrew... the ironic tongue we have between us. Lo tov (Not good) she replies. Yesh arbe arbe hayalim. (There are many many soldiers) Odmeyat hem sogrim hakol. (Soon they will close everything)

She wakes me up at 2am. We need to be ready to leave by 2.30. Something is wrong. Finally the car arrives. Time is of the essence. It's a feeling frantic. There's no playing around here. This is a daily ritual, carefully timed to avoid interception by border police. Humiliation at hands of border police. Tear gas, rubber and live bullets at hands of border police. Being beaten or detained at the hands of border police. Did you know that those who demonstrate the most violent tendencies in psychological testing done when youth are conscripted to the IDF are those who are selected to serve as border police?

We are the first two to enter the taxi. We pick up four more women on the way. We sit cramped. Me between them, sitting on Nejah's lap. They talk normally. Joke. Laugh. Smile. This way has become normalized, but is never normal.

We drive, and drive and drive in the darkness. We reach a turn in the road in Abu Dis and meet huge boulders... this is a strategy used by the IOF (Israeli

Occupation Force) to restrict movement. The driver shimmies the taxi around the boulders and we get back onto the main road, only to find that a flying checkpoint has been set up by the IOF. The driver boldly drives past... we continue on our way... we pass through both the Whadinar and Container checkpoints... our destination they tell the soldiers is Ramallah... we then pass through Ma'ale Adumim, one of the largest settlement blocs in

occupied East Jerusalem... then through Aram, Ram and finally we get to a fence that separates us from Beit Hanina... and there are about 10 men standing at the fence. All labourers entering Jerusalem illegally for employment. Many working for the same projects that sustain the Israeli occupation and Israeli state functioning like construction.

Here there is a small hole cut in the fence. Maybe 1 foot square. Every morning, until the wall is complete, this is the way women and men who are refused Israeli work permits get to work.

40% of the Palestinian economy revolves around Jerusalem.

Nejeh is one of 14,500 Palestinians working illegally in Israel proper as of 2006.

The wall is closer to completion daily. We squeeze through this hole and then we are running in the early morning darkness... This way is patrolled heavily by border police. We run and run and run until we reach a set of stairs on a residential building that lead up. We follow the stairs and are on an enclosed porch that has huge white water containers on the ledge...

I ask the women if they know the people who live here... they

say yes, that this is where they hide daily... until the route to work has to change, which happens frequently. Below we see other Palestinian labourers relying on the shadows to obscure their forms... Below we hear the distinct hum of military jeeps passing, the morning patrol has begun... and almost as if it was timed we hear soldiers barking commands at people who have not been so lucky today with the darkness... and call to morning prayer begins... simultaneously...

This centre cannot hold.  
We wait above for over an hour. It becomes almost like a game... the  
women peek over the side for the Jeeps...

there is nothing pleasant or fun about this...

I am scared.

I feel the weight of the night time shadow and backpack on my back that  
disguise my privilege from the all too eager and trigger happy...

She reminds me I'll be fine if we get caught.

that my Teudat Zut - Israeli identity card - gives me free  
access to all of the lands that Israel claims its own. Again our differences in  
the realm bureaucratic identity classification are punctuated... but something about this  
moment of shared vulnerability builds a recognition... I don't need to be there. She does

And the real point is that she goes through this daily. This is a form of torture made ritual out of necessity. She begins each morning confronted by the forces of dehumanization...

Finally it's safe for about 30 seconds and we decide to take the risk of going down to the street where the Service into East Jerusalem will pick us up. It's not there and we have to run to a next apartment building. The front door is open luckily and we run inside and up the stairs where we can watch for the service.

It arrives and we run out to meet it... it's nearly 6 am...

## The Annexation Barrier

The idea for the barrier was first proposed by Rabin in 1992.

WALL OR FENCE?

-15% is 6-8 meter concrete wall.  
mostly placed in urban areas.  
-85% is fence. but we are not  
talking white picket fence. no. we  
are talking an electronic fence  
with dirt path exclusion areas  
lined by 1-2 rows of barbed-wire  
fences, and then vehicle-barrier  
trenches on 1 or both sides. used  
in mostly rural areas.

## LAND GRAB

The path of the barrier is **703 km.**  
snaking in and out accommodating

98% of the settler population

Each km will cost \$3.7 million

(THE ISRAELI GOV. SAYS IT'S TEMPORARY)

TREES



5,015 Palestinians will be between the wall &  
the green line. separated isolated



When completed the wall will annex 47% of the West Bank  
**isolating 92 Palestinian communities**

In Jerusalem alone the wall has resulted in the confiscation of  
**3360 acres, and the displacement of 1,150 households**

Habes of Beit Ommar: Israeli soldiers came in 2006 and told him he had 12 hrs to evacuate his home and his flower shop- they were too close to the road shared by Palestinians and settlers. Impossible. Bulldozed. a \$2,500 Bill for the demolition. He has not paid for it. All the flowers were ruined. It was a security threat. Habes now lives with his brother and his family. He will never be compensated for his home, his shop, or his destroyed belongings.

-ilana



Illegal under international law : Under the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention, article 53 reads "Any destruction by the Occupying Power of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons...is prohibited."

**Since 1967, 18,000 Palestinian homes have been demolished in the Occupied Territories**

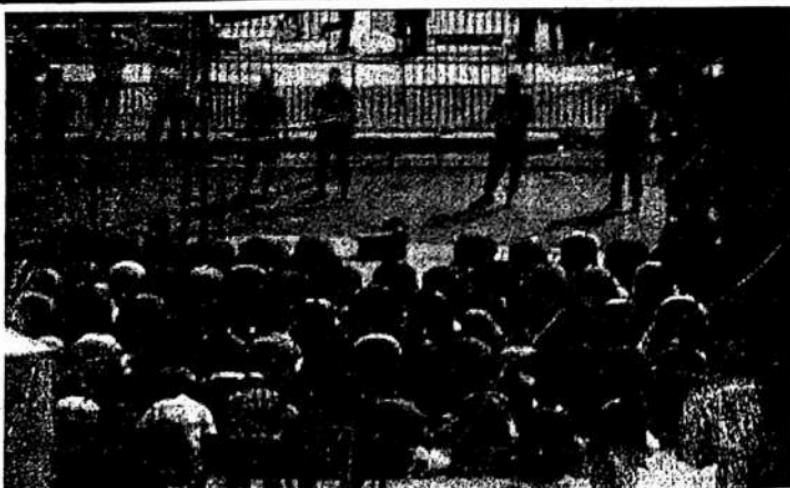
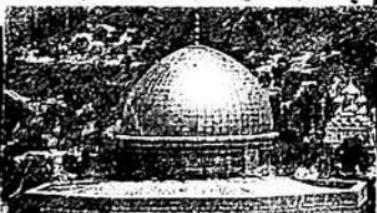
**Since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intifada in 2000, about 5,000 Palestinian homes have been destroyed in military operations. This includes homes destroyed as collective punishment and "deterrence" affecting families of people known or suspected of involvement in attacks on Israeli civilians.**

**During the same period (Sept. 2000-May 2007) about 1,900 Palestinian homes have been demolished by the Civil Administration for lack of proper permits or for 'administrative' reasons. Permits are almost impossible to obtain by Palestinians living under Occupation because of the institutionalized racism inherent in the zoning policies and court systems.**

Palestinians living in the West Bank have to acquire a special temporary permit [which is difficult to achieve and hold onto] in order to enter the holy city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem is out of reach for those who have been marked by prison, who have had their ID illegally confiscated or via collective punishment.

Severing Jerusalem from the West Bank results in denying Palestinians access to family, medical care, Christian and Muslim holy places, educational and economic opportunities. Many prominent Palestinian institutions, suffering from a shortage of staff with permits to enter Jerusalem, have been forced to move out of the city. Moreover, for the thousands of Palestinian prisoners and detainees still held in prisons inside Israel, closure turns the right of family visits into a privilege subject to securing Israeli-approved permits.

religious freedom?



ON FRIDAY FEB. 9<sup>TH</sup> '07 MUSLIMS WERE FORCED TO PRAY OUTSIDE THE DAMASCUS GATE OF THE OLD CITY DUE TO A CLOSURE IMPOSED BY THE ISRAELI ARMY. THE ISRAELI GOV. RECENTLY MADE A UNILATERAL DECISION TO DIG AROUND THE MUGHRABI BRIDGE, PUTTING ONE OF THE MAJOR MUSLIM HOLY SPACES, THE AL AQSA MOSQUE, IN POSSIBLE JEOPARDY. MUSLIM COMMUNITIES AND ALLIES AROUND THE WORLD WERE OUTRAGED. PROTESTS FOLLOWED FRIDAY PRAYERS TO WHICH ISRAELI RIOT POLICE RESPONDED WITH VIOLENT ACTS, INCLUD THE SHOOTING OF TEAR GAS INTO THE MOSQUE. - ANNA

## ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION:

Imprisonment by Israel of Palestinians from the West Bank without charge or trial for up to 6 months, renewable based on the 'Law on Emergency Powers' ...

As of June 2007

*Israel is holding approximately 830 Palestinians in administrative detention  
as well as 9 Israeli west bank settlers*

**POLITICAL PRISONER:** held in prison or otherwise detained because their ideas or image are deemed to challenge or threaten the authority of the state

As of March 2005, there are approximately 7500

Palestinian Political Prisoners in Israeli prisons.

photo: aviva iwps 04/07

April 17<sup>th</sup> is the International Day in Solidarity with Palestinian Political Prisoners. It is marked by demonstrations throughout the Occupied Territories with families demanding the release of prisoners and calling for an improvement to prison conditions. In Jenin hundreds of women gathered in front of the Red Cross building, all relatives of prisoners. One woman had all three sons in prison. Another woman said her husband had been jailed for four years; she has never been allowed to visit him in prison. It's not uncommon for Palestinian men to be jailed repeatedly, initially in their teens and then later, and for families to have more than one member in prison.

Aviva IWPS report 2007

### Tree for you

Here is a tree for you, Grandpa  
A strong Jerusalem Pine in the holy land  
planted as a seedling with hope  
and memory of your strength and love  
a gift from your granddaughter  
a way to connect to what is sacred  
and spiritual  
and alive

A tree for you, Grandpa  
covering the ashes of a fallen village  
a cemetery of lives lost  
with no tombstone

a forest planted to make Israel beautiful  
and to hide the blood spilled  
the voices distant and muffled  
by a cement wall

A tree for you  
when millions of people live  
without a safe home  
without the means to protect their land against  
rape, theft, and destruction  
without hope

There is a tree planted for you, Grandpa,  
where homes used to keep families warm  
while today young children grow up in cages

There is a tree just for you,  
my dearest Grandfather,  
a token of my sorrow  
a dream that some day fear will not allow us to  
turn our backs  
and pretend we do not see.

- Nova, March 07

I am stuck in this vortex  
of what some call home,  
But where no one is safe

Hannah, Aug 07.

On April 15<sup>th</sup> 07 I spent the day in the fields of Awarta in the Nablus Region of the West Bank as a member of the International Women's Peace Service team along with Rabbi's for Human Rights volunteers. International and Israeli presence is requested by Palestinian farmers who are often denied access to their land and subject to settler violence. One of the Israeli womyn was Nomi, a dedicated anti-occupation activist and holocaust survivor. It was Holocaust Remembrance Day Yom HaShoah. 60+ years since Nomi lived the reality of ultimate cruelty, hatred and violence.

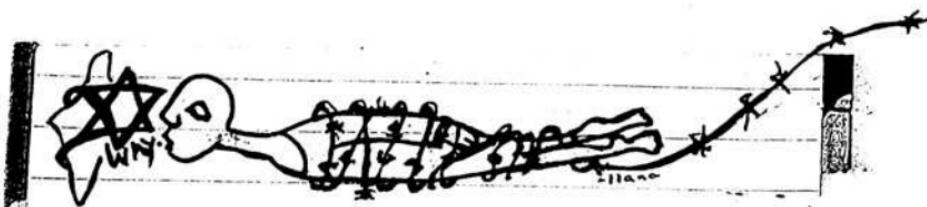
Before accompanying the farmers to their fields, Nomi asked that we join her in a moment of silence to remember the Shoah. At exactly 10 am we heard a siren go off from the nearby hilltop Itamar settlement. I stood next to Nomi, Israeli and International activists and Palestinian farmers, across from half a dozen soldiers. We all bowed our heads in silence.

It occurred to me while standing there surrounded by army jeeps, guns and plows that perhaps we all felt the importance of being there to commemorate the Shoah.

I watched the young men in uniforms, wondering if they truly believed that serving in the occupied territories is helping to create a safe space for Jewish people.

"We must remember the Shoah and say never again, but not just for our people," she said "we cannot use the memory of our genocide to justify our oppression of others. Believe me, I have suffered; which is why I cannot sit back in silence watching my neighbours suffer. I can only lead by example and hope that others will follow."

- Aviva



we were extremely privileged to work alongside incredible Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists, organizers, and rebels who are committed to resistance and a creative transformation of such a complex conflict. Resistance comes in o so many forms. Violent and non-violent. Boycotts and embroidery collectives. As white, Jewish women, we worked in solidarity where appropriate and where invited. Below are some of our favorite folks.



<a href="http://www.palestinesolidarityproject.org/">www.palestinesolidarityproject.org/</a> grassroots Palestinian-led project	<a href="http://www.tslf.info">www.tslf.info</a> (smile liberation front) Israeli rebel clown army
<a href="http://www.stopthewall.org/">www.stopthewall.org/</a> grassroots Anti-Wall Campaign	<a href="http://www.batshalom.org/1.htm">www.batshalom.org/1.htm</a> Feminist peace and justice group.
<a href="http://www.shiraa.org">www.shiraa.org</a> Deheisha Refugee Camp NGO	<a href="http://www.taayush.tripod.com/">www.taayush.tripod.com/</a> (Taayush) Israeli/Jewish &Arab activist network
<a href="http://www.palcircus.ps/">www.palcircus.ps/</a> Circus school for Palestinian	<a href="http://www.activestills.org">www.activestills.org</a> activist photography collective
<a href="http://www.ashtar-theatre.org">www.ashtar-theatre.org</a> Palestinian society in theatre	<a href="http://www.zochrot.org">www.zochrot.org</a> Israelis remembering the nakba
<a href="http://www.birthrightunplugged.org">www.birthrightunplugged.org</a> 6 day alternative tour 2 day trip for refugee kids	<a href="http://www.awalls.org/">www.awalls.org/</a> Anarchists Against the Wall
<a href="http://www.iwps-pal.org">www.iwps-pal.org</a> International Women's Peace Service	<a href="http://www.rhr.israel.net">www.rhr.israel.net</a> Rabbis For Human Rights
<a href="http://www.cpt.org/hebron/hebron.php/">www.cpt.org/hebron/hebron.php/</a> Christian Peace Maker Team "getting in the way"	<a href="http://www.newprofile.org">www.newprofile.org</a> feminist folks against militarism
<a href="http://www.pal-solidarity.org">www.pal-solidarity.org</a> International Solidarity Movement	<a href="http://www.shovrimshnika.org/">www.shovrimshnika.org/</a> (Breaking the Silence) Israeli soldiers speak out
<a href="http://www.combatantsforpeace.org/">www.combatantsforpeace.org/</a> Ex Palestinian & Israeli combatants	<a href="http://www.yesh-gvul.org">www.yesh-gvul.org</a> "There's a Limit") refusnik support
<a href="http://www.theparentscircle.com/">http://www.theparentscircle.com/</a> Palestinian and Israeli bereaved families	<a href="http://www.gush-shalom.org/">www.gush-shalom.org/</a> A leading Israeli Peace Group.
	<a href="http://www.bustanlshalom.org/">www.bustanlshalom.org/</a> environmental justice in the Negev

Our dear friend Ashraf from the Palestinian Village Tulkarm now attends Jenin University. He led the 'Green Revolution' students group in a three year boycott campaign against the Israeli drink Tapuzina sold in his school. It is bottled in a settlement in the West Bank, is full of unhealthy cancer causing chemicals and takes 5 to 6,000 shekels from the University students A DAY (which translates to \$830 million a year). In April 2007, Ashraf and his student group won a huge victory when they convinced the student body and the administration to cancel the contract. Tapuzina and Israeli bottled-water can no longer be found on the Jenin University campus. Their next step: lobbying to establish a new contract for Palestinian products. To date there are no Palestinian products sold at Jenin University.

As of August 07, there are 1,681 Refusniks- Israelis who officially refuse to serve in the military. The tally would be much larger if it included those who refuse in more subtle ways- some claim psychological challenges, identify as Pacifists, or get married. Those who refuse for political reasons often serve time in jail, are denied job opportunities, and receive disapproval from family/society.

Thousands of non-violent demonstrations bring Palestinians, Israelis, and Internationals to the streets in the Occupied Palestinian Territories & Israel Proper.

*Palestine Solidarity Project (PSP) report from May 9, 2007:  
[a non-hierarchical, grassroots Palestinian-lead organization based in Beit Omar]*  
*Dhahariya - Today for the second time this week, Palestinians and internationals from PSP and Israeli activists joined the people of Dhahariya to open the roadblock that prohibits them from accessing the main road to Hebron and the rest of Palestine... Nearly 100 Palestinians and 10 Israeli and international activists pushed, pulled, and rolled 4 large cement blocks out of the path of the road, which has been blocked since the early 1990's. Activists cheered as the first taxi drove through and walked down the road with it towards the highway where one Israeli military jeep was waiting. Though the taxi was forced at that time to turn around, the people stayed in the street, chanting 'la, la, ichtilal' ('no, no, occupation')*

demanding accountability, Israeli Womyn of Machsom watch, observe, monitor, intervene, & report human rights abuses at checkpoints

Our friend Mohamed is going to school and getting an education

IN THE PALESTINIAN VILLAGE OF UM SALAMUNA (S. OF BETHLEHEM), HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAVE BEEN GATHERING EVERY WEEK TO PROTEST THE BUILDING OF THE WALL THROUGH THEIR OLIVE GROVES. THEY HAVE COMMITTED TO A NON-VIOLENT STRUGGLE - SEVERAL DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE CONSISTED OF PRAYER ON THE LAND. SEVERAL COUPLES HAVE CONDUCTED THEIR MARRIAGE CEREMONIES ON THEIR LAND. HUNDREDS HAVE BLOCKED THE SETTLER ROADS SO ISRAELI-PLATED CARS COULD NOT PASS THROUGH THEIR LAND. PEOPLE MARCH, THEY SING, AND THEY ARE NOT GIVING UP THEIR LAND WITHOUT A FIGHT.

Women for Life is an NGO based in the Salfit region of the west bank that stands against the occupation and advocates for social and economic sustainability for Palestinian families. Providing a safe space for women, they sponsor community workshops & events, organize non-violent demonstrations against the wall, hold women's embroidery circles and mentor the girls group **Flowers Against the Occupation** which promotes growth & resistance through traditional music+ dance.

Chen, an Israeli founder of **Combatants for Peace**, uses Theatre of the Oppressed techniques in Palestinian and Israeli schools in order to create a space for youth to sit and act within the other sides' perspectives.

..... — Resistance —

The Smile Liberation Front: the **israeli Rebel Clown Army** engages creative political activism that brings clowning back into the streets - reclaiming its disobedience & ability to disrupt, critique & heal society. After months of workshops, trainings, theoretical discussions, and costume making, we came out a highly trained, silly militia. Alone clowns are pathetic figures, but in groups and gaggles, brigades and battalions, they are extremely dangerous. Clowns can survive everything and get away with anything... marching in the streets - half IDF uniformed and half clown feathered/nosed /polka-dotted-declaring absurd war on absurd war in a highly militaristic society- stopping soldiers and worshiping them, their guns... biking and nose-honking our way thru anti-Occupation Critical Masses...The rebel clown army embodies life's contradictions, we are both fearsome and innocent, wise and stupid, being the entertainers/ dissenters, healers/ laughing stocks, scapegoats / subversives who liberate smiles at lefty demonstrations, protest camps against socio-economic terrorism, Sudanese refugee camps and more and more and more.

Palestinians living in east Jerusalem between the green line and the annexation barrier wall fight to keep their homes. Living with Jerusalem ID, paying 30% of Jerusalem Municipality's taxes, but only receiving 6- 10% of the benefits- lack of schools, waste management, and water access are difficult realities. 100 building permits are allowed a year, but thousands of Palestinian residents need to repair and build homes. These homes receive demolition orders. House demolitions come out of their taxes. They are not compensated. They are cut off from family members living in the West Bank. Settlers are taking over corners, streets, and homes to make East Jerusalem a more Jewish space. Palestinians do not leave. They stay to resist.

Active Stills is an Israeli photo collective who use their privilege and talent as a vehicle for social change. They see the walls of the city as an open gallery and a place to hold other Israelis accountable. They exhibit the realities of life under occupation, capturing images of checkpoints, demonstrations and life behind the wall.

**Birthright Unplugged** (rejecting the notion of a "birthright," as embodied in Jewish-only fully-funded trips to Israel while Palestinians do not have the right of return- or even the right to visit ) is a 6 day alternative tour offering an opportunity for people to gain knowledge through first-hand experiences and to use that knowledge to make positive change. They visit Palestinian cities, villages & refugee camps and community leaders, NGO representatives, peace activists, political figures and families in order to help participants develop an understanding of daily life under occupation.

**Re-plugged** is a 2 day trip for Palestinian children living in refugee camps. They visit Jerusalem, the sea and the villages their grandparents fled in 1948- documenting the whole time for a future exhibit for their community.

the olive co-operative sponsors new olive trees, arranges tours to palestine & israel, and sells Palestinian fairly traded goods in the UK.

On 4/9/07 the High court released its verdict in the petition of the village of Bil'in against the barrier constructed on its land. More than 2.5 years of joint non violent struggle finally prevailed on the High Courts recognition that **the present route of the wall is ILLEGAL** and that the state must propose an alternate route in order to retain Bil'in agricultural land on the Palestinian side of the barrier. In the words of the judges 'the present route raises grave questions also in regards to the security advantages it was said to provide..."

Majdi from Beit Omar is working on spreading solar ovens across his village of Beit Ommar. Right now, Palestinians must buy gas for their stoves from Israel. It becomes an economic boycott and a sustainability project. He is working closely with Israeli youth from an eco/ permaculture commune in West Jerusalem.

..... — Resistance —



refusenik watch  
**1681**  
Israelis  
Won't Go  
updated by oznik GDT



Road block  
Removal

قاوم ارهابهم .. قاطع بضائعهم



~~As a Jew. As a young woman who has dedicated her life to justice— I reject the occupation.~~

~~Supremacy I was raised with,~~

I reject the racist agendas created and prosecuted in my name. I invite my partners— Jews, activists, the privileged, the disenfranchised, the oppressed, the angry, the believers, the fighters. To join me in ~~the~~ the struggle for the humanization of the people tangled in the occupation, the Zionist state, the idealistic diaspora, the world crying for justice, for a peace.

As appears in Ilana's journal, feb 7 2007

Anti copyright... Pass it on.



feedback?  
outzine  
@gmail.com

**some ideas for further investigation**  
(and then action!)

a mix of suggestions from us and folks we know & respect

**WEBSITES**

- www.coalitionofwomen.org/home (Israeli women's peace and justice orgs)
- www.passia.org (Palestinian Academic Society for the study of International Affairs)
- www.icahd.org/eng/ (home demolitions and research)
- www.btslelem.org/ (various human rights issues)
- www.alhaq.org/ (legal and human rights issues)
- www.zochrot.org (remembering the Nakba)
- www.peacenow.org.il/site/en/peace.asp?pi=51 (Peace Now Settlement Watch Project)

**NEWS/ HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING**

- www.aljazeera.net
- www.haaretz.org
- www.alternativeinfo.org (Alternative Information Centre)
- www.electronicintifada.net/v2/humanrightswire.shtml
- www.imemc.org (International Middle East Media Centre)
- www.iwps-pal.org (International Women's Peace Service)

Check out pg 28  
for more justice  
work websites

**MOVIES**

- Young Jewish and Left - Irit Reinheimer + Konnie Chameides, 2005
- The Iron Wall - Mohammed Alatar 2006
- Amas Children - Juliano Mer-Khamis 2003
- Frontiers of Dreams and Fears - Mai Masri, 2000
- The Other Zionists: a documentary - Eric R Scott 2005
- Matzpen - Eran Torbiner 2003
- Encounter Point - Ronit Avni 2006

**BOOKS**

- Israel/Palestine: How to End the War of 1948 - Tanya Reinhart
- Lihish'tah'weel: The Strategic Basis for Peace in Palestine  
Ricardo Levins Morales [www.ricardolevinsmorales.com/writings.shtml](http://www.ricardolevinsmorales.com/writings.shtml)
- Drinking the Sea at Gaza - Amira Hass
- Once Upon a Country: A Palestinian Life - Sari Nusseibeh
- The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine: A History of Modern Palestine - Ilan Pappe
- Occupied Minds: A Journey Through the Israeli Psyche- Arthur Nelson
- Zatar Diva - Suheir Hammad
- Palestine - Joe Sacco
- Writings by Edward Said, Noam Chomsky, Tanya Reinhart, Uri Avnery, Jeff Halper

**DIY**

- Contact activestills and print out a photo exhibit- [www.activestills.org](http://www.activestills.org)
- Start a boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign- [www.bds-palestine.net](http://www.bds-palestine.net)
- Support Palestinian farmers + buy fare trade extra virgin olive oil -[www.zatoun.com](http://www.zatoun.com)
- Sign up for Birthright Unplugged (or a different alt. tour!) - [www.birthrightunplugged.org](http://www.birthrightunplugged.org)
- Holiday activism! Love & Justice Haggadah- <http://colours.mahost.org/events/haggadah.html>
- Read articles, watch films, pass them around, and then host a discussion group
- Hook up with the local anti-occupation org- plan workshops, events, and demos
- Start a dialogue at your synagogue and Jewish Community Centre about Israel/Palestine
- Make a few copies of this fine zine and pass it on. thanks.